



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

10 May 2005

Brigadier General Patrick A. Burns
The Civil Engineer
129 Andrews Street
Langley, Virginia 23665-2767

The Honorable Greg Walden
House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3702

Dear Congressman Walden:

This memo addresses the concerns raised in your letter dated 15 April 2005 regarding the Over-The-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) Radar Transmitter site located in Christmas Valley, Oregon. Let me begin by thanking you for your response to our request for comments and for your interest in the project.

An environmental analysis is ongoing to determine the potential environmental impacts of removing the external radar transmitter equipment and the 11.5 miles of wooden fence. The current analysis of this action is independent of the ultimate action to dispose of other infrastructure and restore the lands. None of the equipment, facilities, or infrastructure would be removed which may have the potential to support enhanced use leasing (EUL) for renewable energy production. Energy transmission specific infrastructure such as access roads, high-energy transmission lines, and support buildings at the Christmas Valley OTH-B site will be left in place.

The Air Force is interested in partnering with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop an EUL concept paper that would propose the use of the Christmas Valley site for the development of renewable energy production. We will keep Kathleen Clark, Director of the BLM apprised as we proceed through the EUL process.

Sincerely

PATRICK A. BURNS
Brigadier General, USAF
The Civil Engineer

cc:

Director Kathleen Clarke, BLM
Oregon State Representative, George Gilman
Commissioner Brad Winters, Lake County Oregon